SPORTS

Winchester football hammers Wakefield, powerhouse Reading up next Friday night at Knowlton

JOE MCCONNELL | SPORTS EDITOR

October 10, 2025 . 6:00 AM — 3 min read

Winchester High football senior leaders Gianni DePrimeo (2), Michael Ficociello (81), William Mango (9), Lucas Sekino (52) and Bryan Harrison (54), from left, head out to midfield for the coin toss before the Waltham game last month. COURTESY PHOTO/JEN JOHNSON

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So far in the early going, there's not much for Winchester High School football coach Wally Dembowski to criticize. His team is a perfect 4-0, with the latest dominating win coming against host Wakefield last Friday night (Oct. 3), 42-7.

The Red & Black have outscored their opponents, 182-43, and in three of those games, they won by the exact same score of 42-7. They have not only been good, but very consistent at the same time. To prove that point, in the latest Division 2 Oct. 7 power rankings, they are seeded fifth.

What's Dembowski most pleased about to date? He simply said: "It's the balanced offensive attack of 243 rushing yards and 253 passing yards (against Wakefield), and also successfully completing their own individual (overall) assignments."

The veteran coach then went on to praise the team's tackling and pass defense to date. Suffice to say, the 4-0 record is a result of the entire team being on the same page. They all seem to understand what it takes to develop a winning formula.

The Winchester boys led the Warriors at halftime, 21-7, and it was more of the same in the second half.

Senior quarterback Ronan O'Connell got the offense going in the first quarter with a 69-yard touchdown pass to Ted Budreski. Junior Will Bolognese then booted his first of six successful extra points.

Senior captain Gianni Deprimeo finished off the next drive with a 14-yard run to the endzone. Wakefield then scored its lone touchdown of the game to begin the second quarter, but O'Connell got it right back on a 10-yard keeper.

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Deprimeo picked up where the team left off in the first half with a three-yard TD run to start the third quarter. Junior signal caller Peter Alexopoulos then hooked up with Budreski for a 68-yard scoring strike. Nolan Byrne closed out the game with a 15-yard jaunt to paydirt in the fourth quarter.

Senior Nicky Rotondi (3 carries, 76 yards), Deprimeo (11 carries, 100 yards, 2 TDs) and Bryne (4 carries, 40 yards, 1 TD) were the team's leading rushers against Wakefield.

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O'Connell completed 10 of 12 passes for 185 yards, and one touchdown. Budreski was on the receiving end of five passes for 175 yards, and two touchdowns.

The defense was led once again by senior captain Bryan Harrison with eight solo tackles and one assisted stop. Deprimeo was credited with four solos, one assisted tackle and one interception. Junior linebacker Eddie Sim was involved in five tackles. Bolognese, also a defensive back, picked off one pass.

Dembowski singled out the entire offensive line for doing an outstanding job controlling the line of scrimmage throughout the game. He also mentioned O'Connell's pinpoint passes, Harrison's impact at linebacker and the defensive line's continuing pressure on the opposing quarterback and running backs.

But Wakefield is in the past, and the Red & Black now await the Reading Rockets, who come to Knowlton Friday night (Oct. 10) to take them on in another Middlesex League battle, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

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Dembowski says of the Rockets: “They run a multiple offense with one, two, three back sets. They also have good speed at the skill positions, and have scored 109 points in four games. They (employ) three and four down looks on defense, while also utilizing multiple coverages and stunts. It’ll definitely be an assignment challenge for us on both sides of the ball in this game.”

Joe McConnell is a longtime, award-winning sports editor for numerous North Shore publications. He began covering Winchester sports for the News last November.

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Sweet 16 game after beating Lexington in postseason opener

It was the third meeting this year between Middlesex League boys basketball rivals Lexington (16-5, 11th seed) and Winchester (17-4, 22nd seed). They split the first two during the regular season, thus making this Round of 32 postseason matchup the impromptu rubber game of this year's series, with the

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senior captains move on to All-States

After the Winchester High qualified wrestlers competed hard over two days last weekend (Feb. 20, 21) in the State Division 1 Meet at North Andover High School, Mother Nature gave them a break to rest and recuperate with Monday's blizzard that resulted in two days off from school. There

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Winchester boys hockey advances to the Sweet 16 after beating Wachusett in the tournament opener

The Winchester High boys hockey team (12-9-2), the 17th seed, edged the 16th-seeded Wachusett Regional Mountaineers (18-2-1), 5-4 in a Round of 32 Division 1 state tournament game at Westborough's Northstar Ice Arena on Feb. 25. The Red & Black will now take on top seed Catholic Memorial (18-2-1)

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SPORTS

With postseason starting Friday night, WHS boys hoop seniors English, Sarpong, Burbine join Middlesex League elite

The Winchester High boys basketball team, the 22nd seed, will take on Middlesex League rival Lexington, the 11th seed, to begin the Division 1 state tournament in the Round of 32 on Friday night, Feb. 27, starting at 6 p.m. These teams are so evenly matched, beginning with the

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Winchester School Committee candidates bring contrasting backgrounds to Thursday forum

Two candidates for Winchester's School Committee will face voters at a forum as the district navigates a new literacy curriculum, budget pressures and questions about student mental health. Heather von Mering and John Bellaire are competing for an open seat on the School Committee, which oversees a budget von

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FEATURES

'Chicago: Teen Edition' dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents "Chicago: Teen Edition," a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. Set in the 1920s, this iconic production is sure to leave the audience wanting more. Performances will

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Welcome Here’

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

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affordability bill

The following was submitted by the Office of Rep. Michael S. Day: Rep. Michael S. Day and his colleagues in the House of Representatives recently passed energy affordability legislation that would result in over $9 billion in savings for utility ratepayers over the next 10 years. The bill maintains critical

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